

All pending claims have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 15-20, of which claims 15 and 20 are in independent format. In this regard, the claims as now drafted are directed toward a liquid monopropellant which *consists essentially of* three components – namely, hydrogen peroxide, ethanol and water. Support for such new claims can be found in the originally filed specification at page 7, lines 11-17 and in Table I (especially samples C, E and F thereof).

Applicants note that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the applied art of record since none teaches or suggests a ternary premixed liquid monopropellant consisting essentially of hydrogen peroxide, ethanol and water. In this regard, the applied Wagaman '136 patent requires the presence of nitric acid and ammonium nitrate. The Weill et al '988 patent, while disclosing a ternary liquid monopropellant, specifically requires an amine salt to be present along with an oxidant and a desensitizing quantity of water. Thus, the critical components disclosed in both Wagaman '136 and Weill et al '988 are specifically excluded by applicants' claim language. The Langlet et al '483 reference similarly teach the necessity of dinitramide salts as oxidizers in *solid* – not liquid – propellants. For such reason, Langlet et al '483 is inappropriate as a reference against the present invention.

In view of the above amendment and remarks above, applicants suggest that all claims now pending herein for consideration are allowable over the applied prior art and official notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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